his sons. An original portrait has also been discovered painted between 1795 and 1799. *A propos* of the family of Lamarck, I noticed that the library of the Institute has preserved one of the *annonces* sent out by Lamarck on the occasion of the wedding of his son, the engineer, Auguste de Lamarck; and that, in another file, a nephew, Auguste de Longschamps, is mentioned (1825) as having been given the privileges of the library. The archives of the Institute, however, I am sorry to say, fail to show the unpublished portion of Cuvier's éloge of Lamarck: this we hope may still be forthcoming among the extensive papers of Cuvier which the library has recently acquired. The missing portion of the éloge, it need hardly be mentioned, is of special interest, since it will probably throw light on a side of Lamarck's life and work which must to no little degree have been responsible for his neglect. For the rest I may quote an explanation of the contemporary lack of appreciation of Lamarck which was made by an eminent professor at the Jardin. "Lamarck," he said, "was found to be lamentably weak in the facts upon which he based his theories, geological, chemical and meteorological: and as an immediate result his views in these fields came in course of time to be regarded as chimerical. Was it not natural, therefore, that both his friends and foes should query whether his evolutionary doctrines were better founded? His methods were thus known to be in strong contrast to those of Cuvier, who, whatever were his limitations, had at least a thoroughly modern spirit in his laborious quest for facts with which to test the relation between cause and effect."

A final item is the installation in the Jardin des Plantes of a Lamarckian museum. This has been brought together during the past year by Professor Joubin and placed appropriately in a room adjoining the malacological collection. It aims to include all specimens which are known to have passed through the hands of Lamarck. The identification of this material, which thus far consists entirely of invertebrates, has proven by no means an easy task, for original labels have frequently been displaced or lost, or covered by later labels. It is to be hoped that the authorities may see fit to extend the scope of the museum in many directions.

B. D.

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF SEPTEMBER 9, 1904.

A TOTAL eclipse of the sun occurred on September 9, 1904. The shadow path crossed the central Pacific Ocean from west to east without touching known land, except that it reached the coast of northern Chile six or eight minutes before sunset. Astronomer William H. Wright, in charge of the D. O. Mills expedition from the Lick Observatory to Santiago, Chile, states that Dr. Obrecht, director of the National Observatory of Chile, established an observing station at Taltal, but that the sky was cloudy at the time of totality. At Santiago the sun set, partially eclipsed, on a fine horizon.

W. W. C.

LICK OBSERVATORY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, November 29, 1904.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGISTS.

THE American Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists will hold its second annual meeting in Philadelphia on December 28 to 30. By arrangement with the American Association for the Advancement of Science the meetings of the Zoological Section of the association will be held in the mornings while those of the Paleontological Society will be held in the afternoons at the same time that the Zoological Society is in session. Thus it is understood that the meetings of both societies will not conflict with the morning sessions of the American Association section, in which the papers will be of a general character.

For the Paleontological Society papers are already promised by Messrs. Osborn, Scott, Sinclair, Matthew, Merriam, Loomis and Hay. The presidential address by Professor Osborn will be entitled 'Ten Years' Progress in Mammalian Paleontology,' including a résumé of the principal discoveries of the past ten years and their bearing upon present and future problems. There will also be a discussion on the evolution and classification of the Reptilia,

in which Messrs. Williston, McGregor, Osborn and others will participate. Titles of papers should be sent to Dr. O. P. Hay, secretary, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS.

THE twenty-third annual meeting of the American Society of Naturalists will be held at Philadelphia on Tuesday, December 27, and Wednesday, December 28. The following program is announced: Tuesday, 8:00 P.M., illustrated lecture by Professor Henry F. Osborn, 'Recent Discoveries of Extinct Animals in the Rocky Mountain Region and their Bearings on Present Problems of Evolution,' at the lecture hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Nineteenth and Race Streets; 9:00 P.M., smoker of the Affiliated Scientific Societies, University Club, Fifteenth and Walnut Streets. On Wednesday a business meeting will be held at 2 P.M. in the Laboratory of Physiology and Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, and in the same place at 3 P.M. the annual discussion will take place. The topic, 'The Mutation Theory of Organic Evolution,' will be discussed from the following standpoints: Plant breeding, by Dr. D. T. MacDougal, of the New York Botanical Garden; animal breeding, by Professor W. E. Castle, of Harvard University; cytology, by Professor E. G. Conklin, of the University of Pennsylvania; paleontology, by Professor W. B. Scott, of Princeton University; anatomy, by Professor Thomas Dwight, of the Harvard Medical School; taxonomy, by Professor Liberty H. Bailey, of Cornell University; and ethology, by Dr. W. M. Wheeler, of the American Museum of Natural History. Each speaker is limited to fifteen minutes. At 6:45 a business meeting for the election of officers will be held at the Hotel Walton, while at 7:00 P. M. the dinner of the Naturalists, in which members of the affiliated societies may participate, will be held. At the dinner the president of the society, Professor E. L. Mark, of Harvard University, will give his address. Hotel headquarters of the society are to be at the Colonnade Hotel, Fifteenth and Chestnut Streets.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE trustees of the Carnegie Institution will meet at Washington on December 13, when it is expected that a president will be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. D. C. Gilman.

THE former students of Professor Charles E. Bessey who are connected with the Office of Vegetable Pathological and Physiological Investigations, Department of Agriculture, have had an enlarged copy of his photograph framed and presented to the office. The portrait, which had been covered with an American flag, was unveiled by Professor Bessey's son, Dr. E. A. Bessey. The picture was hung at a gathering of the office force on November 28. Miss Carrie Harrison presented the picture, and appropriate remarks were made by Mr. A. F. Woods, chief pathologist and physiologist, who spoke especially of Professor Bessey's work in promoting the establishment of the pathological and physiological work of the department and of his constant interest in its progress and welfare. Dr. H. J. Webber, physiologist in charge of plant breeding, spoke of the important part that Professor Bessey had taken in introducing laboratory methods of teaching botany in this country and of his great success as a teacher. Mr. C. L. Shear, pathologist, spoke briefly of his students, referring especially to those who are now holding important positions as professors of botany in various universities and colleges. All testified to the intimate and friendly relation which existed between Professor Bessey and his students and to their great admiration and affection for him.

The seventieth birthday of Dr. George H. Howison, Mills professor of philosophy in the University of California, was celebrated on November 29. A *Festschrift* has been issued by the university press containing contributions by his former pupils.

AT the last meeting of the Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences the following grants for research were made: To Professor R. W. Wood, of Johns Hopkins University, $350, in aid of a research on the optical and physical properties of so-